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ORGANIZATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK CITY PARTY COMMITTEES

The Presidium of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party has adopted a decision concerning the organization of the party's city committees. Kraj and okres party committees are to be guided by this decision and establish city party organizations on the basis of this decision, and are to see that the work of the city committee is accomplished according to the terms of the decision. The instructions of the Presidium of the Central Committee are as follows:

At the beginning of March, city conferences of the Communist Party will be held at which new city committees will be chosen and further objectives for the city organizations outlined. The existing status of the work of the city committees shows serious shortcomings, a significant part of which is the result of their organizational setup. The overwhelming proportion of the city committees today are not fully authorized agencies and do not direct the activity of all the basic party organizations in the city as the organizational procedures of the party require. Most of the city committees run only local party organizations in the city, while some also direct the factory party organizations in industrial installations not engaged in production. Only a few city committees also direct the factory organizations in productive installations. Consequently the members of the city committees have been chosen preponderantly from among the members of the local city party organizations and organizations of white-collar workers. The best workers in the factory organizations of productive installations are thereby excluded from making decisions on the problems of their own cities. Most of the city committees do not discuss problems of fulfilling the Five-Year Plan such as increasing the productivity of labor and the mobilization of manpower, because they are uninterested in these problems.

If the new city committees are to fulfill their objectives, the question of their authority must first be clarified to establish their jurisdiction. For this purpose the city committees are divided into four groups according to their importance, and their authority and the jurisdictional limits of their work are determined thereby.

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Group I -- Prague and Brno

The city committees of the Prague and Brno group will be organized along the lines of the Prague City Committee. Each city committee is under its respective kraj party committee and directs all the basic and okres organizations in the city district. It directs the basic organizations through the okres committees, for which purpose it is equipped with the necessary agencies. It directs the people's administration within the city through the central national committee, and in the individual city okreses through the okres party committees by means of the district council of the people's administration.

Group II -- Other Kraj Capitals

The city committees of the other kraj capitals will be organized along the lines of the Plzen City Committee. In Plzen the Plzen City Committee and the Plzen Rural Okres Committee have been formed. The individual okres committees within the city are being abolished and their authority is being transferred directly to the city committee, which is directed by the kraj party committee.

The jurisdiction of the city committee is the same as that of the okres committees. This city organization, which is on a level with the okres party organizations, is made up of all the basic organizations in the city. Its supreme agency is the city conference. The city conference approves the report of the city committee and of the inspection commission, elects a chairman, the 20-member city committee, and one third of the alternates, and, finally, elects the inspection commission and the delegates to the kraj conference.

The city committee is the supreme agency of the city organizations between conferences. It confirms the basic party organizations within the city district and directs their activity. It elects from seven to nine members to its presidium, conducts the registration of members, and handles its own internal administration. To fulfill daily tasks and to execute the decisions of the city committee and its presidium, it has a party structure, whose organization as outlined by the kraj committee has been approved by the party Central Committee. The city committee meets at least once a month and the presidium once a week.

The city committee and the okres committee of the party share the direction of the unified national committee through the party members in that organization, in the following manner. The chairman of the unified national committee is at the same time a member of the presidium of the city committee, and the deputy chairman of the unified national committee is a member of the presidium of the okres committee of the party; or these positions may be reversed. Similarly, in directing the Communists in the mass organizations the city committee must cooperate closely with the okres committee of the party, which directs all the basic organizations of the party outside the area of the city and under the unified national committee. In disputed matters the kraj party committee will coordinate the work of the city and okres committees.

Group III -- City Committees in All Okres Capitals

The jurisdiction of the city committees of the okres capitals, which committees are subordinate to the okres committees, is established by the organizational procedures of the party. All the basic organizations in the city make up the city organization, and their activity is directed by the okres committee through the city committee, maintaining the closest cooperation.

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The city committee, which directs the work of the city organization between conferences, is composed of a chairman and a 20-member committee, who are chosen at the city conference. These then elect a presidium from among their number, consisting of from six to nine members. The committee meets once a month, and the presidium once a week. The committee does not have its own administration, does not conduct a registration of members, and does not build up its own staff of referents.

Through the meetings of the party in the local national committee and in the mass organizations, it directs the activity of the people's administration and of the mass organizations in the city.

For managing its daily work the city committee has a party apparatus which is included in the table of organization of the okres committee. The apparatus of the city committee is established by agreement between the okres and kraj committees of the party according to the volume of work and the importance of the city. It includes not more than three political workers and one administrative worker, in addition to the secretaries of the important factories in the city. The secretary of the city committee is one of the secretaries of the okres committee.

Group IV -- City Committees in All Other Cities and Urban-Type Obecs

All the basic organizations in other cities and urban-type obees make up the city organization, and their activity is directed by the okres committee through the city committee.

The city committee is chosen at a city conference or at a plenary meeting. The city committee is composed of a chairman and from eight to ten members. It does not elect a presidium from among its number. It meets once a week. It does not have its own administration, and does not conduct a registration of members.

Through the party members in the local national committee and in the mass organizations it directs the activity of the people's administration and of the mass organizations in the city.

In the most important cities of this group, the city committee has a secretary to organize its daily work.

City committees of this type will be established in all obees and in all cities except okres capitals which by their industrial significance, population, and number of party members rate as cities. The obees in which city committees are to be established are to be determined by the kraj party committee on the recommendation of the okres committee.

In order that the city committees of all four groups be capable of taking over and guaranteeing the fulfillment of all their new assignments, the demands made upon the candidates for membership in the new city committees must be increased. The bulk of new members of the city committees must be composed of comrades from party organizations in productive factories who have proved themselves in party work.

Basic Village Organizations

In all rural obees where there have been several local organizations heretofore, all of these will be merged into one local party organization. The duties of these various local organizations will be taken over by one which, on the basis of one party organization for each obec, will unite all Communists living in the obec. The jurisdiction of this local organization, which is the basic village organization, is determined by the organizational procedure of the party.

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By decision of a membership meeting, suborganizations, directed by a committee of the local organization, will be formed when the town is remote or there are too many members.

The suborganization does not have the rights of a basic organization. It does not elect delegates for okres conferences, does not accept new candidates for party membership without the approval of all members of the basic organization, does not initiate disciplinary action against party members and candidates, and cannot eject members from the party. It does not keep its own card file of members and candidates, does not have its own administration, etc. A meeting of the members of the suborganization will elect a three-member committee which, on the decision of a membership meeting of the local organization or of the committee of the local organization, will see that every member and candidate of the suborganization participates in the fulfillment of the objectives of the local village organization.

The local village organization also unites all Communists working in factories and living in the village who actively help the basic organization. It directs the work of the local national committee and of the mass organizations through their Communist members.

In obecs where, in addition to the local village organizations, there is also a factory organization of the Czechoslovak State Farms, the Machine and Tractor Stations, or another installation, common local committees will be established from these organizations. The common local committee is chosen at a plenary meeting of the organizations in the obec. It is composed of a chairman and from four to five members. Through the Communists in the Local National Committee and the mass organizations it directs the work of these bodies. It also discusses various questions of common action of the organizations in the locality.

However, the establishment of common local committees in obecs containing organizations of different types does not relieve the okres committees of their responsibility for the work of the basic organizations in these obecs.

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